

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
JUNE 19, 2014

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 206 at Town Hall at 8:42 a.m.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Chairman, Betsy Haggerty-Ross; Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman, Susan Cameron; RTM Moderator, Sarah Seelye; State Representative, Terrie Wood; Board of Finance Chairman, Liz Mao (via phone) and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

State Representative

Terrie Wood noted that an extensive report by the Behavioral Task Force has been completed in conjunction with the Gun Bill which will address three main components: access, delivery and rights under the law.

Mrs. Wood also mentioned that as part of her work on a Special Education sub-committee of the M.O.R.E. Commission, she will take part in five regional public informational meetings.

Representative Town Meeting

The RTM voted in favor of becoming a part of Councils of Government (C.O.G.) in accordance with a new State Law. This permits the Town to have a vote in regional planning moving forward.

The group agreed that when RTM committees hold joint meetings to review proposals it benefits all. Questions are raised and answered in a more efficient and thorough way and Mrs. Stevenson would like to see more joint meetings; in particular when it comes to streamlining the budget process for next year.

Board of Finance

Mrs. Mao announced that the Board of Finance plans to take advantage of low interest rates by refunding bonds which will benefit the Town's budget for Fiscal Year 2016. Her Board will also be looking at the upcoming BOE teacher contract negotiations, which Mrs. Haggerty-Ross said are tentatively scheduled to begin July 19, 2014.

Board of Education

Mrs. Haggerty-Ross reported that graduation at DHS was held last evening, June 18, 2014. As Chairman of the Board of Education and a graduate's mother it was a memorable event. Mrs. Stevenson felt similarly as First Selectman and a graduate's mother.

The group was updated on administrative staff changes that have taken place and that are in the works. And finally, there was a discussion of some remaining issues with the heating, air conditioning and lighting in the new offices at 35 Leroy Ave.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Ms. Cameron announced that her Commission voted to approve the new plans for the Tokeneke Club. The plans for the new construction include an improved septic system and better parking. The Commission did not vote on the Stanley Road application

because no one seconded the motion. There are concerns over the impervious surface component of the application.

A second company has presented its proposal for a Plan of Conservation and Development. Parking remains a concern for the Planning & Zoning Commission. A meeting will be held on July 1, 2014 to review parking throughout town, with particular attention to the Grove Street lot. Finally, the Commission will send its response to AT&T on the proposed cell tower at Ox Ridge Hunt Club by the June 25, 2014 deadline.

First Selectman

Social and emotional health was addressed at a recent Human Services Planning Council (HSPC) meeting. Terrie Wood and Tim Canty, Assistant Superintendent for K-12, attended the meeting as well. Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Stevenson reiterated their interest in seeing changes made to the school district's health curriculum to incorporate mental health topics.

Mrs. Stevenson received a report from Olive Hauser, Director of Human Services, called the CT Needs Social Services Programs 2014. The report indicates Darien's poverty level at about five percent, which is higher than similar neighboring communities.

Mrs. Stevenson met with the new chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission, Mary Flynn. She held a public input session on the proposed AT&T cell tower at Ox Ridge Hunt Club in preparation of a response letter from her Board to AT&T and she noted that an open space grant for the property at Hecker Ave. is still under consideration by DEEP.

Ms. Cameron moved to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2014 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Seelye and approved unanimously. Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Mao were not present for the votes.

Mrs. Seelye motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Hagerty-Ross. By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary